

Philadelphia, PA – Thirty five years after his commissioning as a Naval officer by then-President Richard Nixon, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) addressed a new class of military leaders who took their oath of office at Independence Hall. The three members of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit (NROTC) at the University of Pennsylvania were honored and after making remarks about the significance of the ceremony, the Congressman administered the oath.

“It is a great privilege for me to welcome these three young officers into what I came to know during my 31 years in the military as a most special brotherhood and sisterhood,” said Congressman Sestak, who rose to the rank of three-star admiral after graduating from the US Naval Academy in 1974. “They will have the honor and responsibility of continuing an extraordinary tradition, built by so many generations of Americans, that represents the epitome of professionalism, patriotism and valor. Just as important as celebrating their achievement today is that we thank their families and the communities that have instilled in them a sense of pride in serving our country.”

Prior to the swearing in, Lieutenant Ryan Conole, the unit’s battalion advisor, read a message from the President of the United States. Then, Ensign David Forman (Temple University, Newtown Square, PA) as well as Ensign Jessica Lee and Second Lieutenant Joshua Oresko (University of Pennsylvania) repeated the word of Congressman Sestak, promising to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” David next heads to Mayport, FL and the USS McInerney FFG-8; Jessica to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD; and Joshua to the Basic School in Quantico, VA.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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